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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05709 291222Z

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 INR-01 ISO-00 /004 W
---------- 032360
P R 291131Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 4418
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 5709

USINFO FOR IOP/M
USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. MCGOVERN PROPOSAL: LISBON MORNING PAPERS, "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" AND "O SECULO," CARRIED INSIDE-PAGE STRAIGHTFORWARD WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS ON SENATOR MCGOVERN'S PROPOSAL FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. ARTICLE LEAD AS PUBLISHED IN "O SECULO," CITED TO UPI AND PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL AGENCY--NOW RE-NAMED ANOP INSTEAD OF ANI: "SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN STATED THAT HE WILL PRESENT A PROPOSAL TO MAKE AVAILABLE A 55 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN IN ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL AND TO PROHIBIT CIA INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL." ARTICLE ADDED THAT MCGOVERN "EMPHASIZED THAT POSSIBLE CIA FUNDS GIVEN TO PORTUGUESE PRO-WESTERN PARTIES
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OR INDIVIDUALS 'WILL POISON THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE

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COUNTRY'."

2. MCGOVERN ON CIA IN PORTUGAL: WEEKLY INDEPENDENT LIBERAL "EXPRESSO" NEWSPAPER OF SEPT 27 PUBLISHED LENGTHY INTERVIEW OBTAINED LAST WEEK WHEN SENATOR WAS VISITING LISBON. TOPICS RANGED EXTENSIVELY FROM U.S. POLITICS TO MCGOVERN'S IMPRESSIONS OF PORTUGAL. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON CIA ACTIVITIES, SENATOR SAID: "I DO NOT THINK THAT THE CIA HAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PORTUGAL. PERHAPS THIS IS SO BECAUSE OF THE EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY CIA INTERVENTION IN CHILE. SINCE THEN IT (THE CIA) HAS GROWN MORE CAUTIOUS, AND THE U.S. HAS NOT PERMITTED IT TO EXPAND ITS ROLE, ESPECIALLY IN A PLACE SO SENSITIVE AS PORTUGAL. WITHOUT A DOUBT, MUCH OF THE CRITICISM ABOUT THE CIA IN PORTUGAL IS EXAGGERATED."

3. SPAIN: MEDIA GAVE DISPROPORTIONATELY HEAVY AND SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE TO PORTUGUESE LEFTISTS' AND OTHER PROTESTS AGAINST SPANISH EXECUTION OF FIVE URBAN GUERRILLAS.

4. OPEC: WEEKEND MEDIA REPORTED, WITHOUT COMMENT, ON OIL PRICE INCREASE.

5. FEW OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS EVENTS WERE REPORTED ON. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S TRAVELS WERE NOT IN NEWS IN PORTUGAL.
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Disposition Event:
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